

59. (New) The balloon catheter defined in claim 56,
wherein said first slit is narrower than an outside diameter
of the guidewire.--

REMARKS

Consideration and allowance of the subject application
are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-⁵⁹~~29~~ are pending in the application. Claims 1,
16, 31, 47, and 56 are independent.

Applicant has added new Claims 46-59 to afford himself a
scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. The new
claims are fully supported in the specification and drawings. In
particular, the feature wherein the adapter slit is narrower than
the guidewire is clearly depicted in Figure 4, and is discussed in
the specification, as amended above. No new matter has been added.

The "radio opaque" marker is depicted in Figure 1 of
Horzewski, incorporated by reference in the last paragraph of the
specification, relevant portions being added to the specification
by the above amendments. Additionally, the "various densities" of
the plastic tube are discussed in Horzewski, incorporated herein by
reference, the relevant portion being added by way of the above
amendments. The "stiffening member" is described in detail in
Horzewski, incorporated in the subject application by reference.

and relevant portions of Horzewski have been added to the specification by the above amendments. Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions regarding claim language, she is respectfully encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked-up Claims

1. (Once Amended) A balloon dilation catheter comprising:

a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end;
an inflatable balloon disposed at the distal end of the tubular member;

a first lumen disposed in the tubular member and in communication with an interior of the inflatable balloon;

a second lumen disposed in the tubular member for receiving a guidewire [substantially] along a portion of its [entire] length, the second lumen having a first opening in the tubular member and a second opening at the distal end of the tubular member; [and]

a slit-forming region disposed longitudinally in the tubular member and extending along at least a portion of the tubular member, the slit-forming region causing formation of a first slit as the guidewire is separated from the second lumen

an adapter disposed at the proximal end of said tubular member; and

an adapter slit disposed in said adapter to permit separation of the guidewire from the adapter, said adapter slit

being narrower than an outside diameter of the guidewire throughout the length of the adapter.

11. (Once Amended) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1, wherein the slit-forming region extends along a portion of the length of the tubular member to a location proximal the balloon.

16. (Once Amended) A catheterization kit comprising:
a guide catheter;
a guide wire; and
a balloon dilation catheter comprising:
a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end;
an inflatable balloon disposed at the distal end of the tubular member; a first lumen disposed in the tubular member and in communication with an interior of the inflatable balloon;
a second lumen disposed in the tubular member for receiving a guidewire [substantially] along at least a portion of its [entire] length, the second lumen having a first opening in the tubular member and a second opening at the distal end of the tubular member; [and]

a slit-forming region disposed longitudinally in the tubular member and extending along at least a portion of the tubular member, the slit-forming region causing formation of a first slit as the guidewire is separated from the second lumen;

an adapter disposed at the proximal end of said tubular member; and

an adapter slit disposed in said adapter to permit separation of the guidewire from the adapter, said adapter slit being narrower than an outside diameter of the guidewire throughout the length of the adapter.

26. (Once Amended) The catheterization kit defined in claim 16, wherein the slit-forming region extends along a portion of the length of the tubular member to a location proximal the balloon.

31. (Once Amended) A stent-mounted balloon catheter comprising:

a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end;

an inflatable balloon disposed at the distal end of the tubular member;

a stent mounted on the inflatable balloon;

a first lumen disposed in the tubular member and in communication with an interior of the inflatable balloon;

a second lumen disposed in the tubular member for receiving a guidewire [substantially] along at least a portion of its [entire] length, the second lumen having a first opening in the tubular member and a second opening at the distal end of the tubular member; [and]

a slit-forming region disposed longitudinally in the tubular member and extending along at least a portion of the tubular member, the slit-forming region causing formation of a first slit as the guidewire is separated from the second lumen;

an adapter disposed at the proximal end of said tubular member; and

an adapter slit disposed in said adapter to permit separation of the guidewire from the adapter, said adapter slit being narrower than an outside diameter of the guidewire throughout the length of the adapter.

41. (Once Amended) The balloon catheter defined in claim 31, wherein the slit-forming region extends along a portion of the length of the tubular member to a location proximal the balloon.